

# Relationships are reward for traveling

By David F. Haywood

DEMING, Wash.—After traveling more than 5,000 miles and conducting Centrifuge youth camps in six states, the rewards of the summer for the 12-member team of leaders are measured in relationships.

The Centrifuge traveling staff held six-day camps in Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Washington. Sponsored by the church recreation department of the Sunday School Board, the traveling camp was offered for the first time this summer, in addition to Centrifuge camps at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) conference centers and Mobile (Ala.) College and North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C.

"We are ministering to young people

who would not have been reached with the gospel otherwise," said camp director Scott Werner, a recent graduate of Golden Gate Seminary and a native of Nashville, Tenn., during a recent camp at Mount Baker Conference Center here.

According to Lance Howerton, a student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., a lot of hard work was put into building relationships with campers each week so they would feel free to talk about their problems.

"It has been tiring physically, but I haven't wanted to miss any opportunity to talk with the kids," explained Merrie Allen, a three-year Centrifuge staffer from Six Mile, S.C.

Because of the intensive schedule

the team found they had to get along. "We are family—we have to be," said Char Martin, a student at Southwest Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. "I have really learned to love by accepting the other team members for who they are."

In addition to the rewards, a summer on the road does produce some hardships. "There is a real lack of time for yourself," explained Martin. "You are on call all week and you have to learn to be unselfish about yourself and about privacy."

One of the lessons the team learned this summer was to be flexible. "One week you may have your Bible study under a tree and the next week in a small room," said Laura Moak, a

Southwestern Seminary student from McComb, Miss.

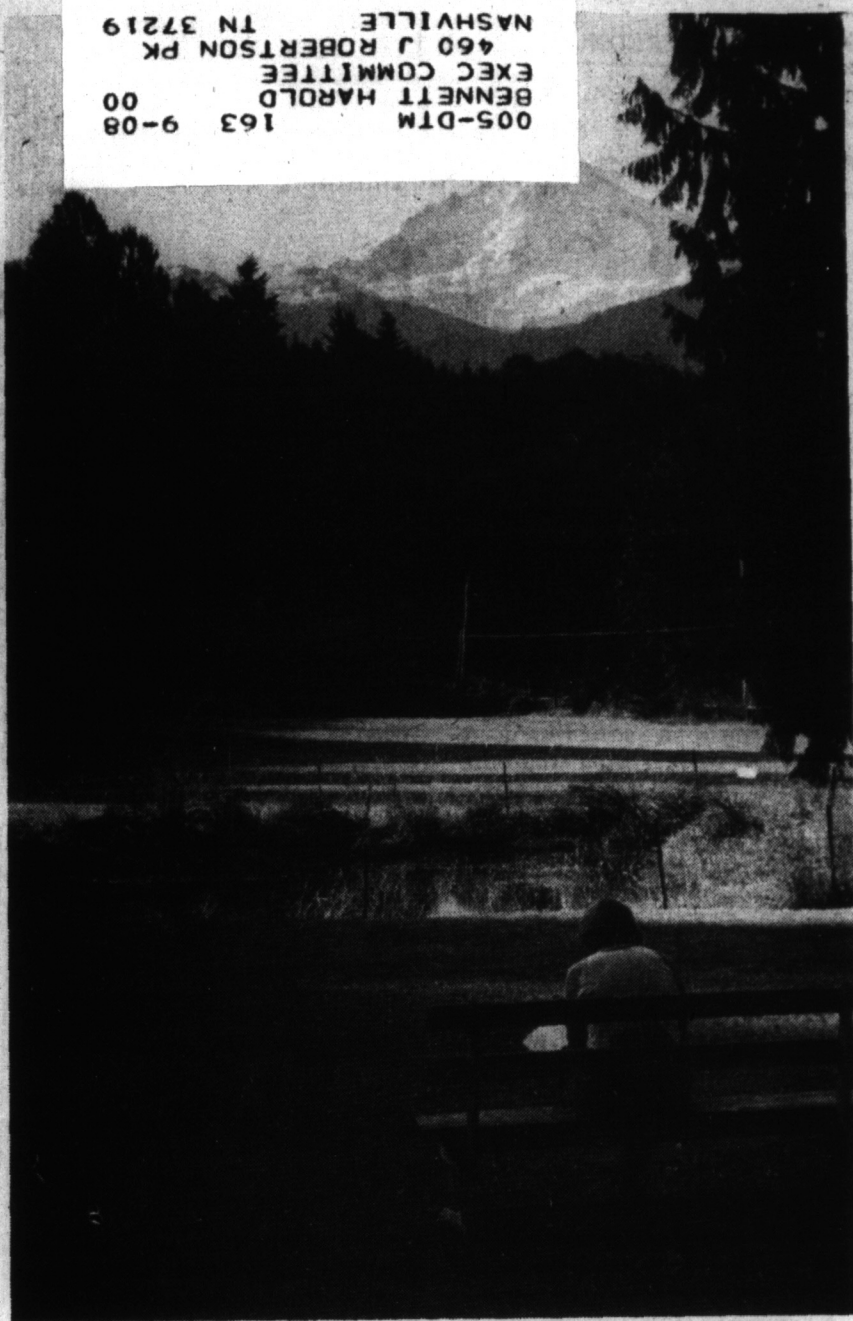
"Being flexible helps your creativity. Sometimes you just have to tack a poster to a tree," said Moak with a smile.

Personal growth was another reward the team received this summer. "It has been hard to be away from loved ones but it has stretched me and I wouldn't trade it for the world," said Becky Sue Rodgers, a teacher from Knoxville, Tenn.

"It has been a good summer," said Allen. "I've never had such a good time and known I was doing the Lord's will."

(Haywood is a photojournalist for the Sunday School Board.)

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Laura Moak of McComb who served this summer on the traveling Centrifuge team, tried to spend time each day praying, studying her Bible and admiring God's handiwork, amid sites like Mount Baker. Photo by David F. Haywood.

# The Baptist Record

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## Tax-related case continues

# Clarksdale request for stay of IRS investigation denied

By Don McGregor

An appeal by Clarksdale Baptist School for a stay of execution of an Internal Revenue Service investigation of the school's tax exempt status pending the outcome of an appeal has been denied by U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan.

The request for a stay of execution of

the investigation has been resubmitted to another justice. If the ruling should go against the school, the IRS would begin investigation of the school's tax exempt status and possibly also that of Clarksdale Baptist Church, since the school is an institution of the church, Pastor Don Dunav-

ant told the Baptist Record this week.

At this time the school has appealed a ruling by a federal district court in Washington, D.C., which directed the IRS to investigate the tax exempt status of the school following a suit brought against the IRS to force such an investigation. That suit was

brought by William H. Green. Green won.

The Clarksdale Baptist School requested the right to intervene in the case and was granted that privilege. Judge George Hart ruled against the school on July 8, and the school appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Hart's ruling that there must be an investigation will be put into effect immediately unless another justice rules in favor of the school and grants a stay of execution, Dunavant said.

Meanwhile, the briefs in the appeal will be submitted in October; there must be time for a response to the briefs by the opposing side; and the hearing in the appeal will not begin until November or perhaps even after the first of next year, according to Dunavant. A decision by the appeals court is not expected until next spring.

Thus the school and church is facing an investigation immediately by a government agency, and the agency may be told in the spring that such an investigation is unconstitutional, the pastor noted.

Following the July 8 ruling by Hart, the school asked the circuit court of appeals for a stay of execution and was turned down without comment. Then the school sought a stay from the Supreme Court, but Brennan also declined to grant it. The final course of action was to appeal to another justice for a stay of execution of the investigation.

The IRS claims that the school must provide proof that it was not begun in order to provide an escape for some students from the integration of Clarksdale public schools. The tax agency has established the procedures by which the school must provide its proof. These include recruiting black students, faculty members, and board members.

The school counters that it was begun to provide a Christian education for children of church members and that it is an extension of the church's religious education and evangelism efforts. The student body is not limited to Baptists, however, and anyone may attend who pays the tuition and is in-

(Continued on page 3)

## What's Inside?

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 2

What about arms control?

Support for Baptist schools

Note on Social Security

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 2

Whippoorwill Valley

1984 SBC housing request form, Page 3

# Miller, Neighbour, McLeod to lead in student meeting

Hundreds of students from 26 campuses in Mississippi are expected in Tupelo at Harrisburg Church, Sept. 23-25 for the annual Baptist Student Convention. A focus of the convention will be on discipleship.

The convention will feature as speakers Calvin Miller, Ralph Neighbour, and Peter McLeod. Miller, pastor of Westside Church, Omaha, Neb., is author of such books as the trilogy "The Song," "The Sing," and "The Finale." Neighbour, president of Touch Ministries in Houston, Tex., and is the author of the "Survival Kit for New Christians." McLeod is pastor of

First Church, Hattiesburg, and is creator and producer of radio talk programs for youths and singles. McLeod will be Bible study leader.

The mime team of Bryan and Marguerite Humphrey will do theme interpretation throughout the weekend. And Scott Willis, BSU director at Augusta Community College and Georgia Medical Center, will lead the music for the convention.

Miller's talks are entitled "Treasure in Earth" and "Neglect Not the Gift." Neighbour will speak on "The Time is Short" and "Drawing the Line."

Special interest seminars during the convention will primarily center on Christian discipleship. Topics and

speakers include "How to Develop a Meaningful Quite Time," by Ethel McKeithen, retired consultant, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union; "Developing a Lifetime Plan for Personal Bible Study," by McLeod; "Disciplining Individuals—One to One," by Tom Hudson, pastor, Oak Forest Church, Jackson; "Equipping Student Disciples Through BSU," by Keith Cating, BSU director, University of Mississippi;

"Christian Response to the Cults," by Chris Elkins, minister of education, First Church of Gendale, Hattiesburg; "Creative Avenues for Discipleship," by Neighbour; "The Disciple Confronting Current Ethical Issues," by Jeanette Phillips, professor, Department of Home Economics, University of Mississippi; "The Physically Fit Disciple," by David Cundiff, director, USM Physical Fitness Institute; and "Growing and Developing Your Spiritual Gift," by Miller.

In addition, there will be opportunities to talk with leaders in Mississippi BSU student missions, summer service in Mississippi, the missionary Journeyman and US-2 programs, and there will be representatives from New Orleans and Southern Seminars to talk about seminary education.

The BSU convention is sponsored by the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Ricky Young, a student at Mississippi College, is current president.

# Oklahoma City, First, names women deacons

By Dan Martin

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Three women have been elected deacons by members of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, setting up what is sure to be a confrontation between the 3,000 member congregation and the Capital Baptist Association.

The election results were announced last week in the church's edition of the Baptist Messenger, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Members of the church balloted Aug. 21, choosing 18 deacons from among 48 persons—including seven women—nominated.

Pastor Gene Garrison, immediate past second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said normally the church elects 15 deacons each year, but this year three vacancies had to be filled, necessitating the election of 18 deacons.

Of those elected, the three women and three men will be ordained by the church Sept. 25. Twelve of those elected previously have been ordained.

The women elected are Edna Dunn, Kathleen Nash, and Sherry Lawson. A fourth woman—unnamed in the news article—also was elected but declined to serve, saying her husband and two sons already are ordained deacons at the church, and adding she believed her election would be "a little too much."

The article explained the three week delay in announcing the results of the election by noting Garrison "personally interviewed those who had never been ordained, informing them of their election and asking them to consider serving as an active deacon."

Garrison told Baptist Press he asked

each of the women to prayerfully consider serving, saying he did not tell them whether they were the only woman elected to the board until after each had consented to serve. "Each of the women prayerfully considered it for several days before agreeing to serve," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

## \$16.5 million to be voted

A Cooperative Program budget of \$16,485,000 for 1984 will be proposed in November to messengers at the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The budget was approved Aug. 29 by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for presentation to the convention.

The budget is broken down into three main categories. Institutions and agencies are slated for \$4,555,881, with

The complete proposed budget is on page 5.

the largest amount going to Christian education. That figure is \$3,100,000. Christian education capital needs is the next largest figure at \$475,000. And the Children's Village is scheduled to receive \$308,000. The remainder is ticketed for the other institutions and agencies of the convention.

Board expenses are scheduled for \$6,082,402 of the total. Most of this, \$5,589,462, is slated for operating the departments of the board, for capital needs, for the assemblies, for youth

(Continued on page 3)

# Missionaries' deaths cause many to ask "why?"

By Norman Jameson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The deaths of missionary Roger Thompson in Ecuador, a missionary kid in Indonesia and several volunteer workers in the United States this summer are vivid reminders of the perilous and often isolated duties of Christian workers.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board records show 31 men and women have drowned, been murdered, or killed in car accidents or airplane crashes while serving as Southern Baptist missionaries.

The earliest were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. James who in 1848 were drowned in Hong Kong harbor. Thompson is the latest. He was on his way to teach Christians in Cuenca to use a soul-winner's New Testament in witnessing when the airplane in which he was riding slammed into a mountain, killing 116.

In 1880 Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bond and Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. A. Rohrer sailed for China aboard a boat that disappeared at sea. Five missionaries have died in China, not including the Bonds and Rohrers, and seven in Brazil.

All the deaths are tragic but among the most shocking were those of Rufus Gray, who in 1942 was tortured to death by Japanese soldiers in the Philippines; Mavis Pate, who

was murdered by Arab soldiers in the Gaza Strip in 1972, and Mississippian Archie Dunaway, murdered in 1978 in Rhodesia by guerrillas.

Sept. 4 marks the 25th anniversary of one missionary death that is still affecting Southern Baptists—the drowning of Wimpy Harper during an outing with family and friends in east Africa.

Jesse Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, was the Foreign Mission Board associate personnel secretary who processed Harper through appointment as a foreign missionary.

In 1965, seven years after Harper drowned, Fletcher stood on the beach where the accident occurred, asking "Why?" He found some answers.

Arville Senter, then a first-term missionary in east Africa, told Fletcher he and his wife, Pauline, committed themselves to missionary service after reading of Harper's death.

Fletcher also remembered professor Cal Guy told a chapel audience at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, the news of Harper's death. "At the close of a simple memorial service, he ex-

tended an invitation for mission volunteers," Fletcher said. "Scores answered in response to that service."

Cornell Goerner, then area secretary for Africa, said, "You know, it's hard to realize that when Wimpy died we had in east Africa less than two dozen missionaries. One organized church, an incomplete hospital and an incomplete community center. Seven years later we had 104 missionaries here, over 200 churches, a flourishing hospital, three community centers, two Baptist boys' high schools, a publishing house and a seminary."

In 1982 there were 223 Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania (the old east Africa mission) working in 1,612 churches and preaching points. There were more than 14,000 baptisms reported last year.

Answers to the "whys" of untimely, seemingly unjust deaths of people, like Wimpy Harper and Roger Thompson, dedicated to bringing others to knowing Jesus Christ, are never easily apparent.

William R. O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board, said it is life's "most perplexing question" and one he has asked many times. The answer,

he said, lies in the nature of life itself where no one is immune from pain and suffering, and ultimately death.

O'Brien said the number of deaths of missionaries is remarkably low considering the 138 years of foreign board operation, missionaries' high mobility, and frequent presence in times of natural disaster and war.

There never has been a decrease in interest among potential missionaries following news of a death on the field, O'Brien said, and the board continues to appoint record numbers.

Harper's wife, Juanita, is a missionary in Kenya and their son, Richard, is a missionary in Brazil. "Death did not turn them from God or the pilgrimage God led them to," O'Brien said.

Fletcher sees a possible answer in the tremendous response of others to missions service as a result of the example of people like Harper.

He had completed laying the foundation for the Baptist missionary enterprise in east Africa. Like Moses, someone else would lead across Jordan.

(Jameson writes for Southwestern Seminary.)



# Editorials

## What about arms control?

by don mcgregor

The arms race, nuclear proliferation, arms control, or whatever term might be used is an annual concern at Southern Baptist conventions. The reason for such an issue being a concern at conventions is that the possible large-scale death rate that could result from a nuclear attack is felt to make it a moral issue.

The underlying question always seems to be, can we trust the Russians?

The obvious answer seems to be no. All the world has seen Russia at work in recent days. And while the shooting down of a South Korean passenger airliner might not seem on the surface to have any direct bearing on a decision to be faced by the Southern Baptist Convention, when we get into a discussion of arms production or restriction, it might have more bearing than would first be imagined.

There are many Southern Baptists who feel that Russia can be dealt with

only from a position of strength. Others feel that the role of the United States should be that of peacemaker and that such a role could not be played out in a posture of arms buildup.

The message of the past few days would seem to be that whatever position we decide to take as a convention, and that position could vary from year to year, we must be prepared to make our decision in the light of the realization that the Russian government cannot be trusted.

That is a frightening concept when one realizes that the world could be obliterated in a few minutes if all of the power already available to both nations were to be turned loose at one time.

So what of arms buildup? Should we spend the multiplied billions that would be possible just because we fear falling behind in the arms race? Would we better serve our citizenry by turning a large portion of that money back

into social concerns with the hope that they would be safe physically while we were trying to take care of their other needs such as food and housing?

Who knows the answers?

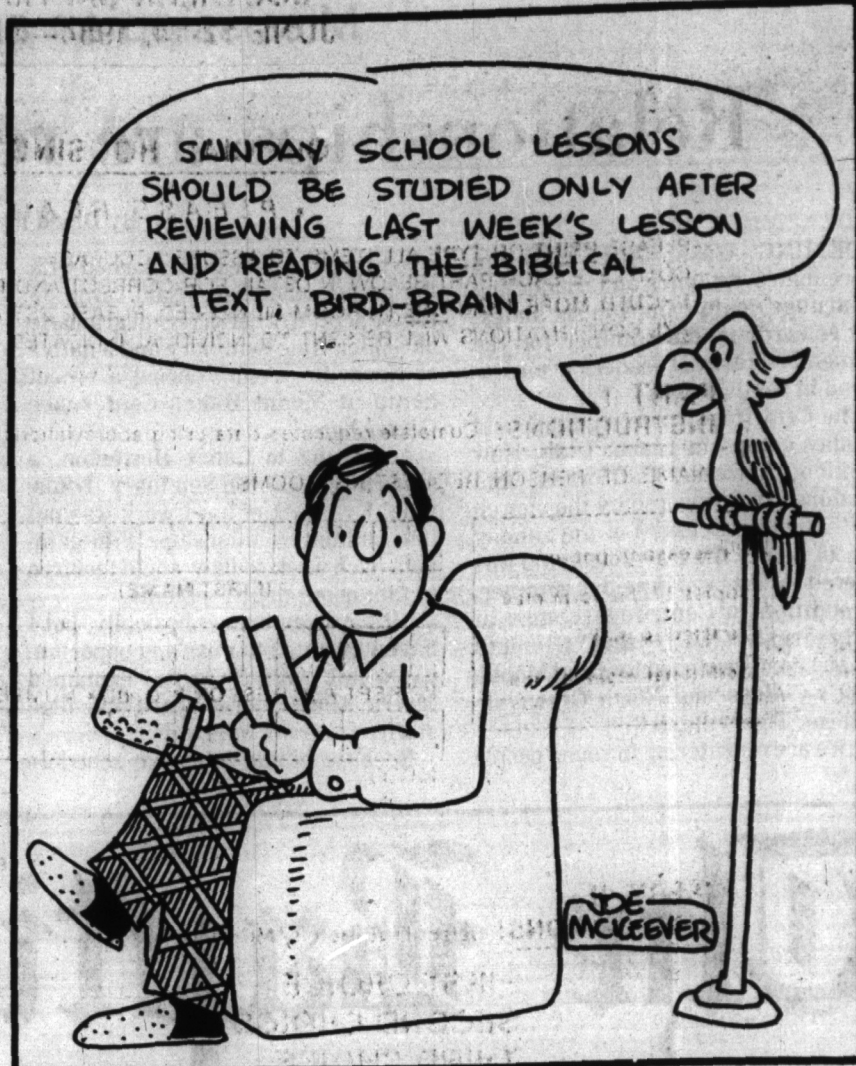
Two thoughts seem to stand out, however. One is that in view of the circumstances that are evident, we had better make our deliberations from a position of preparedness rather than from a position that would point out that we were not worrying about being prepared and hoping that the other side therefore would follow the same course of action, or inaction. The other thought is that there doesn't seem to be much reason to go overboard in arms buildup. I don't know anything at all about nuclear capabilities. The word continues to surface, however, that we could destroy Russia several times over right now.

There would be no need for that, obviously; but, on the other hand, power-

ful instruments of destruction could be outdated. If there could be a simple solution, it would seem to be that we must be prepared to defend ourselves with adequate and up-to-date defense equipment, but there is no point in being over equipped.

And the world needs to know that we would not use those weapons except as the result of extreme provocation in order to protect our own citizens.

Then we also must convey to the world the truth that we are a peaceful nation. Perhaps we haven't done too well at that, but it is of vital importance. The nation does not and should not use any religion's dogmatism when dealing in international diplomacy, but those multiplied millions of us in the nation who are Christians should live and conduct our affairs so that the world would know and understand that we are being guided in our considerations by the fact that we are following the Prince of Peace.



## Letters to the Editor

### Appreciation for help

Editor:

This letter is written to express my deep appreciation for Dr. Clifton Perkins and for the Financial Aid Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Dr. Perkins has the concerns of the pastors of our state at heart. He goes beyond the call of duty to make sure these ministers are taken care of in their deep time of need. He was truly helpful to me and my family when we needed help not only financially but emotionally.

Dr. Perkins will not be forgotten by our family and by many other families like us throughout this state. Thank you, Dr. Perkins, and Mississippi Baptists for making the difficult times in this pastor's life much more bearable. There are others who deserve our heartfelt thanks; and I believe, as they read this letter, they will know who they are.

Rev. J. Mitchell Osborne  
Rt. 2, Box 6  
McCall Creek, Miss. 39647

ning 84 new church-type missions by the end of 1984. We now have over 30 new works. However, we have not really begun to do what our Lord wants us to do. In one of my associations we have a SWAT TEAM—Survey and WIN ANOTHER TOWN. All three of my associations are using the idea for starting new work.

Thank you for the article and especially the last paragraph. Pentecost Sunday has passed, but we will welcome every church that is willing to enter partnership with one of our churches in order to get directly involved in Bold Mission Thrust by helping us win Montana to Christ.

My wife and I are natives of Mississippi and very much appreciate all the help we receive from our friends in there.

Caley Ray Nichols  
Home Missionary  
P.O. Box 5953  
Helena, Mont. 59604

### TelNet satellite system installed

WHITE OAK, Texas (BP)—Emmanuel Baptist Church in White Oak, Tex., is the first church in the Southern Baptist Convention to have a telecommunications system installed to receive Baptist TelNet, the Sunday School Board's training network.

A 13-foot satellite receiving dish and related equipment were installed in late August at the church, which has an average weekly Sunday school attendance of 250.

First Baptist Church, Belton, Tex., was the second church to have a system installed by Starview, the company which is handling all installations ordered with the equipment.

Baptist TelNet is expected to begin broadcasting late in the spring of 1984. Churches interested in additional information about a telecommunications system may contact Broadman Press at the Sunday School Board for guidance in selecting the proper equipment.

## Support for Baptist schools

As state Baptist colleges and universities get their fall semesters under way, it is significant to note that one such university affiliated with a state Baptist convention has a Presbyterian as a president.

He is Thomas Hearn Jr., president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. Wake Forest also at this time has a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

As far as I can remember, this is the first non-Baptist to serve as president of a Southern Baptist-affiliated school. There have been many faculty members who were not Baptists, for not

enough qualified Baptists could be found to fill all of the needed positions. It has been contended all along, however, and surely it is the case, that all faculty members have been Christians.

But heretofore, if memory serves correctly, all top administration personnel have been Baptists.

We wish Wake Forest well as it seeks to serve in whatever role it sees for itself now. Certainly it is a first-rate institution and will continue to give its students a top quality education. While it was established to serve the education pursuits of Baptists in North

Carolina, however, it is doubtful that it can maintain that as its primary purpose with an administration that is headed by other than a Baptist.

All state Baptist colleges and universities were established initially with the purpose of providing a Christian education from a Baptist standpoint, primarily for Baptist young people. It is difficult to understand how this could continue to be the purpose with an administration under the leadership of someone who is not a Baptist.

Counting Cooperative Program allotments, money paid by Baptist

families in tuition costs, and gifts both major and minor given by Baptist people over many years of time, the amount of Baptist money that goes into Baptist institutions is sizeable indeed.

These are difficult times for Baptist institutions. There is no question about that. They need all of the help they can get. It is tragic, however, when that need becomes so great that the colleges are tempted to go outside Baptist ranks for administrative officials.

Surely Baptists can provide support in great enough measure that such a course should not be necessary.

## Note on Social Security

A bit of explanation needs to be added to the material presented last week relating to what is pending in Social Security payments. Generally in an employee-employer relationship each pays half of the total Social Security payment with the employer withholding the employee portion of

the payment. With the exception of 1984, this will continue to be the case. In 1984, however, the employer will pay 7 percent of the taxable salary; and the employee will pay 6.7 percent. Our presentation had stated that both parties would pay 6.7 percent.

In addition, one reader has pointed

out that there is a serious inequity in the Social Security set up as it relates to ministers. It is that if a church pays the Social Security tax for a minister, that amount of money must be added to the minister's income and is taxable. On the other hand, the church or any other employer is compelled by

law to pay half of the Social Security tax for all other employees, and that amount of money is not counted as income and is not taxable. That will amount to 7.65 percent of the salary by 1990. As noted above, it will be 7 percent in 1984.

## Guest opinion

## The Cooperative Program: how does it work?

By Julius C. Thompson

One of the challenges facing every generation of Baptists is to redefine the questions, What is the Cooperative Program? How does it work?

The Cooperative Program has been defined as a channel through which concerned Baptist churches give regularly to meet mission needs around the world.

It is a plan for doing mission work together. It combines all the resources of Southern Baptists into a voluntary plan of cooperation for the purpose of carrying out the commission Jesus gave his followers. It is a plan for every Baptist in every church in every state to reach out to the whole world to share the story of God's love. It is a working agreement between the SBC and each state convention that permits cooperating churches in each state to make one undesignated gift and, with it, participate in the total ministry of both the state and the national convention.

This mission plan is called the Cooperative Program.

Southern Baptists cherish their freedom and independence. We also cherish our interdependence! We insist that every church is autonomous and self-governing, charged with the responsibility of determining its destiny under the lordship and leadership of Christ. But every individual believer and each church knows that all the needs of our complex world cannot be met single handedly. Therefore, we have found a way to go into all the

world, and that way is the Cooperative Program.

How does it work? The procedure begins with individual gifts that members place in the offering plates of local churches.

As a Christian steward you must decide what portion of your income is to be shared in Christ's work through your church and around the world. You bring your tithes and offerings to the church where you are a member. This is a part of your weekly worship. Your offering is combined with the gifts of others in the support of the ministries of your local church.

In business session, your congregation must decide how total budget gifts will be divided between local causes and mission ministries beyond your community. A part of each offering is used by your church to care for such expenses as debt retirement, building maintenance, utilities, literature, printing, postage, and salaries. The church treasurer also writes a check monthly, or weekly in some churches, to be channeled to state and SBC mission work. The check is sent to the business office of the Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. The Board has been designated as the "receiving agent" for all Cooperative Program funds from the churches.

At the state convention level those Cooperative Program dollars go through the first distribution process. Messengers from the churches to the state convention decide in advance how these mission dollars will be divided among the various mission causes in Mississippi. The state convention budget allocates a specific percentage of its receipts for mission ministries supported in the state. Our Baptist colleges, the Baptist Foundation, the Baptist Medical Center, the Christian Action Commission, the Children's Village, BSU Centers, the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, assembly operations, the Baptist Record, and all other board programs are supported out of the state's portion of Cooperative Program receipts.

The SBC part of all Cooperative Program dollars are forwarded monthly by the executive secretary-treasurer to the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn. This organization is made up of 67 elected representatives from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. It is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations on exactly how these Cooperative Program dollars are to be divided among all SBC mission causes. These causes include both home and foreign missions, quality education for Southern Baptist

ministers, and the work of the Southern Baptist Convention's Commissions and agencies such as the Stewardship Commission, Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, Annuity Board, etc. While the Executive Committee makes recommendations as to how Cooperative Program funds are to be allocated, their recommendations must be approved by messengers from local churches at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The three steps in the movement of Cooperative Program mission dollars

are local churches, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention. But the whole process begins with the voluntary gifts individual Baptists make by placing tithes and offerings in the offering plate in the local church on Sunday. It is a simple but efficient way to reach out to the whole world with the story of God's love.

Julius C. Thompson is consultant in the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Faces And Places by anne washburn mc williams

### Whippoorwill Valley

Whippoorwill Valley, Hickory Flat. That name had intrigued me since I saw it on an envelope, maybe 25 years ago. I had read and reviewed award-winning Ghost Hound of Thunder Valley, written by Ewart A. Autry, and I knew that he and his wife, Lola, had written articles published in national magazines such as Reader's Digest and Field and Stream, and that she had also taken the wildlife photographs to illustrate her preacher-writer-naturalist husband's stories. I had read in Progressive Farmer—and in the Baptist Record—about the gigantic outdoor Christmas pageant they collaborated in creating, "Christmas in the Cotton Patch."

Now I had to pinch myself to see if I were awake. Here I was at Whippoorwill Valley, in the home of the woman I'd admired for so long. Her husband, who had been a minister for 54 years, was no longer living. But Lola was playing the piano, after we'd eaten supper, and her twins, Lanny Autry and Martha Crawford, and their wife and husband—Deborah, and Ray, and three grandchildren were singing "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

(Lanny and Deborah are members of First Baptist Church, New Albany; Martha and Ray are members of the Palmer Baptist Church. Lanny is a forester; Martha teaches high school science at Blue Mountain.)

We were deep in a national forest in Benton County, at the foot of one long hill (mountain?) and at the top of another. "Down there" Lola said, "is a spring. When we first moved here, we carried our water up the hill." I stepped onto the deck and found myself among the treetops (I imagine the leaves will soon be turning yellow).

"Sometimes at night I can hear the coyotes," she said. And her husband wrote about the red fox and the horned owl, the firefly and the catfish.

Rarely have I seen anyone with as many talents as Lola Autry. She is a musician, writer, photographer, speaker, teacher, housewife, hunter, gardener, nurse, cook, puppeteer—You name it. She can do it.

Her father, W. M. Lineberry, was a violinist and her mother was a pianist and singer. By the age of 12, Lola was playing the piano on radio. (In her native Memphis, she attended the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925, the year the Cooperative Program was born.) "The first time I saw Ewart Autry, I was sitting on the piano bench at Central Avenue Baptist Church," she remembers. But it was not until quite a few years later, after she'd taken premed courses and majored in science and music at Memphis State and begun teaching school, (and his wife had died) that they got married.

It was 1941 when he left his Memphis pastorate to follow his dream of ministering to rural churches, and he and Lola moved to his father's old homeplace between Hickory Flat and Ashland. Once he served seven churches. The longest of his pastorates was at Pine Grove (Benton), for 33 years.

I have read the autobiography they wrote, Don't Look Back, Mama. It's good reading and I highly recommend it! It for me underscored blue-eyed Lola's versatility and durability, her courage and compassion, her sense of humor, and her ability to do anything she tried.

At the churches, she played the piano or the organ, directed choirs, taught singing schools, sang at wed-

dings and funerals. When her son, Jerry, was born, she didn't quit playing the piano at church, but laid him across her lap while she played.

Once when the two older boys, Jimmy and Ronald, came home for a week, the whole family fished in the Little Tippah River all day and half the night, and cooked their catch outdoors. When they were back at the house and ready for bed, they saw a big bunch of cars drive up. Two couples came in, wanting to get married, so Lola got out her autograph and sang "O Promise Me" for a midnight double wedding.

(Jimmy later became editor-in-chief of Better Homes and Gardens and now is a vice-president of Meredith Publishing Co. Ronald, now deceased, was bureau chief of Associated Press for Georgia and Alabama.)

In the early 40s, depression had not turned loose of the north Mississippi hills, and the preacher's salary was a bit low. The Lord always answered the Autrys' prayers and provided their needs. One day, when unexpected company arrived, Lola thought she'd have to serve them gravy and biscuits. But Ewart slipped out the back door and went rabbit hunting. His wife found one last jar of canned blackberries, from which she made a pie. The guests raved over the novel menu.

When her husband's writing began to sell on a national scale, she decided to learn to be a professional photographer, so she could illustrate his work. Her country house has become a gallery of her marvelous woods and wildlife scenes. And she has her own portrait studio as well. My favorite of her superb slides is the one of a moccasin swallowing a catfish. The Autrys' book tells about the night when law officers awakened them at 2 a.m. and asked Lola to come and photograph the whiskey still they'd found.



Lola talks to the bird dogs, Shot and Sam.

In the churches, Lola taught children and adults and young people. At Pine Grove, she still directs music and teaches adults in Sunday School and young people in Church Training. She wrote 52 Primary Devotionals—With Original Songs and with her husband wrote Bible Puppet Plays, both books published by Baker.

Last year she was one of five of us who went to Argentina for a volunteer mission project. Afterward I tried to say how well she used her talents in music and photography and working with children, but I could not then, and can't now, really do her justice.

But she is not "puffed up." She is warm and friendly, and down to earth. At Whippoorwill Valley, I felt welcome and right at home.

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OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

• PLEASE READ CAREFULLY •

- PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.
- ALL CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

PART I  
INSTRUCTIONS: Complete requested data using abbreviations as necessary.

(NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOMS)

If necessary, photo-  
copies of this form may  
be used to make  
additional reservations.

(FIRST NAME)															(LAST)														
(STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NUMBER)																													
(CITY)										(STATE)										(ZIP - U.S.A.)									
(Area Code)										(PHONE NUMBER)																			

PART II  
INSTRUCTIONS: Select FIVE Hotels/Motels of your choice

FIRST CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

THIRD CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

FOURTH CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

FIFTH CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

PART III  
INSTRUCTIONS: 1. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.

2. PRINT OR TYPE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING EACH ROOM.

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of room desired:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single (1 bd/1 pr)

\_\_\_\_\_ Triple (2 bd/3 pr)

\_\_\_\_\_ Double (1 bd/2 pr)

\_\_\_\_\_ Quad (2 bd/4 pr)

\_\_\_\_\_ Twin (2 bd/2 pr)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of all persons occupying the room (print last name first)

1		3	
2		4	

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Hotel locations are shown on accompanying list. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come direct from your hotel. DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS. If rooms are not available at hotels of your choice, comparable reservations will be made at another cooperating hotel. If rate requested is not available, next available rate will be assigned. Changes in your reservation may be made by phoning the hotel in which you have a reservation.

NOTE: PLEASE RECHECK ALL ITEMS FOR CORRECT INFORMATION  
DO NOT MAIL FORMS POSTMARKED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1983

Hotel Location And Rates

Hotel	Rooms Committed	Location	Single	Double
Adams Mark	75	C	\$60.00	\$70.00
Arrowhead Inn	80	C	\$32.00	\$38.00
Ball Park Inn	20	C	\$30.00	\$33.00
Best Western				
Antioch Inn	75	C	\$39.00	\$45.00
Best Western				
Hallmark Inn—Liberty	20	D	\$34.00	\$38.00
Best Western				
Stadium Inn	50	C	\$35.00	\$47.00
Capri	40	C	\$24.00	\$32.00
Century Inn	45	A	\$33.00	\$47.00
Dixon Inn	130	A	\$40.00	\$50.00
Embassy on the Park	130	A	\$60.00	\$72.00
Hallmark Inn—Olathe	40	D	\$38.00	\$38.00
Holiday Inn City Center	400	A	\$56.00	\$56.00
Holiday Inn Fun World	80	C	\$55.00	\$60.00
Holiday Inn—				
Sports Complex	125	C	\$55.00	\$65.00
Holiday Inn Towers	80	B	\$41.00	\$46.00
Howard Johnson's				
—Central	150	B	\$40.00	\$48.00
Howard Johnson's				
—Downtown	100	B	\$40.00	\$48.00
Howard Johnson's				
—East	100	D	\$31.00	\$36.00
Howard Johnson's				
—North	60	C	\$42.00	\$46.00
Howard Johnson's				
—Southwest	100	D	\$32.00	\$35.00
Hyatt Regency	600	B	\$66-86.00	\$76-96.00
Inn at Executive Park	150	C	\$48.00	\$56.00
Mission Inn	35	C	\$25.50	\$28.50
Phillips House	185	A	\$56.00	\$66.00
Radisson Muehlebach	650	A	\$40.00	\$50.00
Ramada Inn				
—Overland Park	75	D	\$41.00	\$47.00
Rodeway Inn				
—Overland Park	30	D	\$34.00	\$37.00
Royale Inn	40	B	\$26.00	\$38.00
Travelodge—Downtown	70	B	\$37.00	\$42.00
Travelodge—Gateway	75	D	\$33.00	\$39.00
Travelodge—Midtown	40	B	\$32.00	\$35.00
Westin Crown Center	150	B	\$72.00	\$82.00

LOCATION: A within 8 blocks  
B 8 blocks to 2 miles  
C 2 miles to 10 miles  
D 10 miles or more

NOTE: Radisson Muehlebach is the headquarters hotel.

Clarksdale request for stay  
of IRS investigation denied

(Continued from page 1)  
terested in such religious training from a Baptist perspective. The school notes that it has minority pupils though no blacks and that it has no need to recruit since classes are always full. No blacks have applied for entrance, officials have declared.

Dunavant says a vital constitutional provision is at stake. He feels that for the IRS to seek to force the school to recruit is a violation of the religious freedom of the church as provided by

the constitution. The outcome of the appeal will have nationwide consequences for churches that operate religious schools, Dunavant declared.

Pray for MKs

September 19—Fred E. Nabors (Israel), Miss. State University.  
Sept. 29—Terrell A. Stella (Korea), Mississippi College.

Housing request form  
released for Kansas City

Use of Form

The attached form is similar to the one that has been used for the past four Southern Baptist Conventions. All individuals wishing to make hotel reservations for the Southern Baptist Convention just use this type of form. No phone reservations will be accepted by the Kansas City Housing Bureau.

How To Use The Form

All individuals wishing hotel reservations should use this form. One form should be used for each room requested.

Part I—Accurately fill in the requested information. The confirmation will be mailed to the person whose name appears in Part I.

Part II—From the accompanying list, select five hotels of your choice. Place the names of the hotels on the lines in Part II, in the order of your preference.

\$16.5 million  
to be voted

(Continued from page 1)  
night, for student centers' capital needs, for subsidies to associations, for general services, for annuity participation, for Social Security and insurance, and for underwriting the expenses of the Baptist Record, most of which are handled by subscription fees and advertising. The other \$492,940 is scheduled for public relations, convention sessions, printing, board meetings, the executive secretary's office, and the business office.

Southern Baptist Convention causes are scheduled for \$5,846,717. Of this amount, \$5,769,717, or 35 percent, is slated to go to the Southern Baptist Convention as Cooperative Program gifts. This is up from the 34.5 percent of this year.

The remainder of the SBC portion would be slated for the South American Missions Coordinator, for the Foreign Mission Board appointment service next April, for the SBC Video Cassette Program, and for the Mission Service Corps program.

In addition there are two items in an advance section of the budget. The first advance would be to a maximum of \$200,000 for an institutional endowment campaign. The second advance portion, after the first is reached, would be to a maximum of \$250,000 for the Mississippi College School of Law. Next year will be the last year for the law school portion of the budget.

Part III—Fill in all information requested for the room you wish to reserve. If you need more than one room, use a second sheet. Photo copies of the form may be used.

How The Form Is Processed

When the Housing Request Forms are received by the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau, they will be held until October 10, 1983, to be sure that all the housing requests postmarked October 1 have had time to arrive. The forms will then be opened and separated on the basis of choice of hotels.

Detach The Form and Mail it to:

SBC Housing  
P.O. Box 26310  
KANSAS CITY, MO, 64196

NOTE: Housing requests postmarked prior to October 1, 1983, will be processed after those postmarked October 1, 2, or 3.

Further Information

If you have need for further information, contact HOUSING INFORMATION, SBC Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, phone (615) 244-2355.

Additional copies are available from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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FOR SALE — ADDRESSOGRAPH EQUIPMENT, automatic and manual feed, includes 50-drawer cabinet, metal holders for plates. Excellent working condition. Telephone 601-969-0622 — Mississippi Economic Council.

SALE: BAPTIST PASTORS' LIBRARY. Write for list. Pastor Burke, 320-W McTyre Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202.

Name women deacons

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Lawson will serve on the deacon body with their husbands, each of whom has been a chairman of the deacons at the church. Mrs. Nash is a widow. Her late husband also was chairman of the deacon body.

In his column on the newsletter, Garrison noted: "I am well aware of the fact that not everyone will agree with this action. It thus becomes very important to understand the basis of this disagreement. No church should ever attempt to compel uniformity of faith at every single point. But the church must seek a unity within diversity, harmonizing technical differences of interpretation within a spirit of mutual love and respect."

"We do not all agree at every single point of biblical understanding, yet we have found a remarkable fellowship that allows and encourages individual freedom and responsibility to think, to study, to decide, and to act within a larger spirit of oneness."

He wrote that some in the church are concerned "with the attitudes and opinions of those outside our church, particularly other Southern Baptists. Well, I share the same concern. I am committed to the New Testament principle of trying 'not to offend' my brethren. I prefer not to provoke criticism, and especially to avoid argument whenever possible."

The action of First Baptist Church in authorizing, electing, and ordaining women as deacons and the reaction of the Capital Association in passing two resolutions and adopting one committee report opposing the ordination of women, probably will set up a confrontation when the association conducts its annual meeting Oct. 17-18 in Nichols Hills Baptist Church.

Perkins, who has headed the 137,000 member association for two years, said First Baptist Church did not send messengers to the 1982 annual meeting, and may not do so again in 1983. If the church sends no messengers, Perkins said, "the matter may be handled very quietly. If a motion is made not to seat their messengers and they don't have any messengers, then it will have to be ruled out of order."

However, he pointed out he believes the matter is up to Garrison and the church. "I honestly do not know if Gene (Garrison) wants it handled quietly. He may want to vindicate himself or declare they have a scriptural basis for what they have done. It may be that he wants to speak to the annual meeting."

Perkins said if Garrison wants to defend his position "there will be others who would take the scriptures and do exegesis in another way. It would open up a long, hard discussion and votes would be made and cast. I really don't know what would happen..."

The picture is clouded by the association constitution, which specifies it is an "association of messengers from churches..." Since First Baptist Church did not send messengers to the 1982 meeting, questions have been raised about its membership.

Perkins said, however, the church is considered a member of the association.

Storm stops Irwin

ISTANBUL, Turkey (EP)—A fierce windstorm forced former U.S. astronaut James Irwin to suspend his search of Mount Ararat less than 530 feet from the summit of the peak where legend says Noah's Ark rests, his guides said August 23.

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Worship with  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Brookhaven**  
for Homecoming  
September 18, 10:45 a.m.  
Landon Miller, Richmond, Va.  
to speak  
Harry Thompson, Alexandria, La.  
to sing  
Dinner on the grounds  
Dr. Robert E. Self, Pastor

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# Mississippi Baptists' 1984 proposed budget

INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES	1984	% Of Total
Christian Education	\$ 3,100,210	18.80
Christian Education Capt. Needs	475,010	2.88
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center		
Education	35,010	.21
Hardship Assistance	80,000	.49
Med. Ctr. Capt. Needs	80,000	.49
Children's Village	308,000	1.87
Ministerial Education Board	84,060	.51
Christian Action	124,859	.76
Baptist Foundation	123,527	.75
Historical Commission	31,129	.19
Miss. Baptist Seminary	134,366	.82
Sub-Total	\$4,555,881	27.84
BOARD PROGRAMS		
Conv. Bd. Capt. Needs	364,000	2.33
Gulfshore Assembly Programming	117,260	.83
Gulfshore Operations	119,529	.78
Program Dtr.'s Office	118,114	.72
Youth Night	10,000	.06
Broadcast Services	85,533	.52
Church Adm.-Pastoral Min.	98,291	.60
Church Building Services	40,699	.25
Associational Administration	67,418	.41
WMU	283,023	1.80
Sunday School	306,935	1.86
Church Training	263,785	1.60
Brotherhood	173,080	1.05
Church Music	172,415	1.05
Student Work	567,391	3.44
Student Ctrs. Capt. Needs	100,000	.61
Evangelism	92,801	.56
Cooperative Missions	224,969	1.36
Stewardship & Coop. Prog. Prom.	202,475	1.23
Subsidies to Associations	111,000	.67
Church-Minister Ref. & Annuity	140,995	.86
General Services (Bldg. Maint., Bldg. Serv., Basic Telephone, Print Shop)	618,966	3.75
Baptist Record	242,780	1.47
Annuity Participation	605,110	3.67
Social Security & Ins. (Bd.)	434,000	2.63
Sub-Total	\$5,589,462	33.91
Public Relations	25,675	.15
Convention Sessions	17,500	.11
Conv. Annual, Diary, etc.	26,000	.16
Conv. Bd. & Comm. Mtgs.	25,000	.15
Exec. Secty-Treasurer's Office	143,411	.87
Business Office	255,354	1.55
Sub-Total	492,940	2.99
STATE CAUSES — Grand Total	\$10,638,283	64.54
SBC Causes		
South Am. Missions Coordinator	30,000	.18
FMB Appointment Service	22,000	.13
SBC Video Cassette Program	15,000	.09
Men Serv. Corps. Prog.	10,000	.06
Southern Bapt. Conf.	5,789,717	35.00
Sub-Total	5,846,717	35.46
GRAND TOTAL — ALL CAUSES	\$16,485,000	100.00

Advance Budget  
Advance I — Institutional Endowment Campaign to a maximum of \$200,000.  
ADVANCE II — Mississippi College School of Law to a maximum of \$250,000.



## Youth choir reunites at Wildwood

At Wildwood Baptist Church, Laurel, Aug. 12-14, the Youth Choir of 1967-1970 returned for a reunion of fellowship and singing.

On Saturday night the parents of the choir members hosted a barbecue supper that was followed by a time of practice. Sunday, the choir was led by returning minister of music, Lewis Herrington, in a special service of songs the choir had done on its many trips throughout the south.

Of the 75 original members, 46 were able to return for the reunion, representing six states.

During the service on Sunday morning a great number of commitments were made to the Lord.

- Calvary, Pascagoula: Sept. 18-21; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy VonKanel, evangelist; Herman Cowart, music evangelist; George Berger, pastor.
- Wiggins Baptist Church, Carthage: Sept. 18-21; Lois Jane Huddleston, Galatin, Tenn., a full-time singer (who sang at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1982), guest musician, leading in a "Revival in Song" and presenting a 30-minute concert each night; Carlton Jones, pastor, to bring a brief message to close each service; Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and nightly at 7.
- Trinity Baptist Church (Wayne): Sept. 18-23; lunch served at noon in the church fellowship hall on Sept. 18; services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, and at 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; Albert McMullen, pastor of First Baptist Church, Stonewall, preaching; music led by Mark Thomas, music director, First Baptist Church, Stonewall; Jake C. Williams, pastor.
- Trace Ridge Baptist Church, Ridge, La.: Sept. 25-29; at 7 p.m.; Daniel Gage, Houston, Tex., evangelist, preaching; Mark Jobe, evangelist from Dallas, Tex., leading the music; Jerry Odum, pastor.
- First Church, Corinth: Sept. 11-14; Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson; preaching; John Causey, pastor; noon and 7 p.m. daily.
- Pinelake Baptist Church (Rankin): Sept. 18-21; Russell M. McIntire, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton presently pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., evangelist; music led by Jennis McIntire, who recently joined the Pinelake Church staff as minister of music; services at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, and at 7 each evening; Lanny Wilbourn, pastor.
- Kossuth Church (Alcorn): youth revival, Sept. 18-21; Greg Moffitt, minister of youth, preaching; services at 7:30 nightly.
- Oakland Church, Corinth: Sept. 11-16; John Sheasby, of Cape Town, South Africa, associate of Manley Beasley, evangelist; Tony Wilkerson, minister of music and youth, leading singing; W. L. Owens, pastor; Mon.-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Fri., 7 p.m.
- Tylertown Baptist Church (Waltham): Sept. 18-21; Bartis Harper, pastor; Garland McKee, former Mississippian, now serving in Pearlman, Tex., evangelist; Jimmy Cutrell, Mississippian, serving now in Gainesville, Ga., leading the music; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.
- Wesson Baptist Church, Wesson: Oct. 2-5; at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Guy Henderson, Clinton, director of evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Beth and R. L. Sigrest, Yazoo City, music evangelists; Ken Stringer, pastor.
- Center Grove Church, Meridian: Sept. 18-23; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday; William Cox, evangelist; Myron Burris, music director; Jay Sutton, pastor.
- Maybank Church (Lebanon): Sept. 11-16; Hollis W. Nix, evangelist; Van Windham, pastor; Mike Wallace, music director; dinner was served on the grounds Sunday; services Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.
- Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg: Sept. 25-28; at 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, full-time evangelist from New Hebron, evangelist; Jerry Swimmer, full-time music evangelist from Iuka, music evangelist; George G. Aultman, pastor.

## More fragments of Book of Mormon said found

SALT LAKE CITY (EP)—Newly found fragments of the Book of Mormon's original manuscript are significant additions to a collection that supports Mormon Church claims about the origin of the book, a church historian says. The fragments, acquired over a period of eight to ten months by Provo lawyer Brent Ashworth, "appeared to be authentic," said Dean Jessee, a research historian at Brigham Young University's Joseph Fielding Smith Institute of Church History.

Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, claimed to have received the Book of Mormon from an angel in 1823. He said the book was written on gold plates in a language he called reformed Egyptian.

He claimed to have translated the book through the power of God, dictating it to several scribes. The principal scribe was Oliver Cowdery.

The volume, which relates the story of an ancient people purported to be the ancestors of the American Indians, is accepted as scripture by the Mormon Church. Ashworth said he traded for part of the fragments and bought others from undisclosed collectors. He declined to say how much he paid, saying he believes they are priceless.

Mr. Jessee said he compared the handwriting on Ashworth's fragments to examples of writing by Oliver Cowdery and they appeared to match. "The paper itself appears to be the same as that the other manuscript was written on," he said.

The manuscript is another piece of a larger collection of fragments that belong to the church, Mr. Jessee said. That collection, estimated to be about one-third the total manuscript, is significant because it is the original and verifies Joseph Smith's claims that Cowdery was used as his scribe, Jessee said. The fragments include sections closer to the end of the book than those owned by the church, indicating Cowdery was used as a scribe through much of the volume, he said.

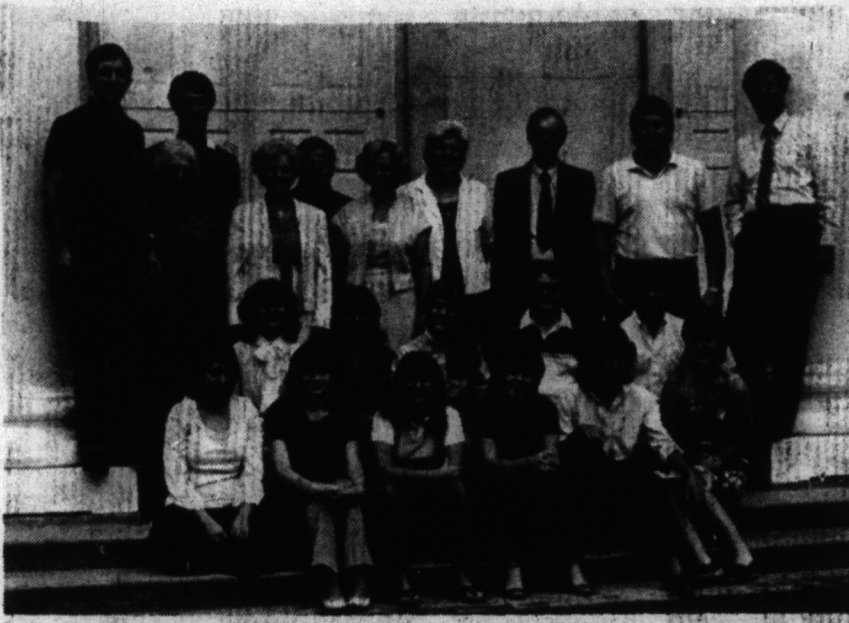
## Good Hope celebrates 150th

Good Hope Baptist Church, Winston County, near Louisville, celebrated its 150th year on Aug. 21.

Lunch was served in the church recreation center. Two former music directors at the church, Johnny Boy Presley of Clinton and Jerry Nance of Louisville, presented special music during the afternoon service.

Bob Posey of Birmingham, Ala., brought a special message, reminiscing about his years as pastor at Good Hope and telling humorous anecdotes from the past, from lives of the members.

The program committee for the event included Phil Gillis, pastor; Mrs. Helen Goodin, Mrs. Pauline Whitehead, Mrs. Lora Ann Goodin, and Mrs. Christine Presley.



## Main Street team goes north

Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, sent a missions team to Lower Burrell, Penn., north of Pittsburgh. The youth and adults led in Backyard Bible Clubs and door-to-door surveys, and Mainstream (a youth ensemble) presented concerts. Nineteen decisions for Christ were reported. Ron Burkett, home missionary to the area, helped to coordinate the efforts. This was the first time in the history of Main Street that adults and youth had combined in such a tour. Bob Jones is minister of music, and Don Robbins is minister of youth.

McAdams Church (Attala): Oct. 9; homecoming; morning service as usual; "dinner on the ground"; singing in the afternoon; special music to be presented by Mrs. Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson and "His Kids" of First Baptist Church, Kosciusko.

Rocky Point (Leake): Sept. 25; homecoming day; old-fashioned day; celebration of church's 125th anniversary; A. A. Ward, former pastor, to deliver the homecoming sermon.

Parkway Church, Pascagoula: homecoming; Sept. 18; Allan Kilgore, preaching in the morning service; covered dish dinner to be served at noon; any former pastor present, of either Eastside, McArthur St., and/or Parkway Baptist churches to have a time of sharing plus the history of the church to be read in afternoon; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; Morning worship at 11; afternoon service at 2; no night service; Kenna Byrd, pastor.

Eret Baptist Church (Wayne): Sept. 25; homecoming; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; old-fashioned dinner on the ground at noon; afternoon service at 2; revival Mon.-Fri., Sept. 26-30, at 7:30 p.m.; Lamar O. Ball, a former pastor of the church, preaching.

Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia: Sept. 25; homecoming; 35th anniversary; Clarence Mayo, former pastor at Beacon Street, now pastor of Weir Church, to preach at 11 a.m.; Jerry Jones, pastor of Hope Baptist Church, to preach at the afternoon service; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; charter members to be recognized; Henry E. Hight, pastor.

Tommy C. Peters, pastor of Old Oak Grove Baptist Church, Union County Association, Myrtle, has been selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America for 1983. He is from Nettleton. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and is enrolled in the seminary studies program at Jackson, Tenn.

Jose Borrás, ex-Roman Catholic priest, evangelist, pastor, author, and president of the Spanish Baptist Seminary, was elected president of the Spanish Baptist Union in its annual convention held in Vitoria, Alava, Spain, Aug. 24-26. He has previously served as president of the Union for three consecutive terms of two years each, (1970-76) and this time was elected to finish out the two-year term of Pedro Bonet, who resigned because of his work load. Borrás has been a visitor to Mississippi, and one year was a featured speaker at the state Woman's Missionary Union Convention.

Scott Forbus, a member of First Baptist Church, Amory, was licensed for the gospel ministry on Aug. 7. He is a freshman at Samford University. Scott is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forbus of Amory. Jerry Massey is the pastor at First, Amory.

## R. E. faculty honors O'Neal

Norman O'Neal of Clinton was given The Distinguished Service Award by the religious education faculty of Southwestern Seminary, while he and Mrs. O'Neal were attending the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association meeting Aug. 9-11 in Ft. Worth, Tex.

O'Neal taught in the Religion Department of Mississippi College for 28 years. Prior to that he served as minister of education in churches in Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. He was on the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board for several years (the last years as the first head of the Audio-Visual Aids Service).

O'Neal served for ten years as trustee of Southwestern Seminary. After retirement from Mississippi College in 1974, he served several years as director of missions (part-time) in Warren County.



## Moseleys take Hawaii jobs

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moseley of Lucedale have accepted a short-term mission assignment of the Home Mission Board and the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

He will serve as interim pastor of the Komolani Baptist Church, Honolulu. She will teach conversational English to internationals, and work in Baptist Women and Sunday School.

Moseley is pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Lucedale. He and his wife will begin their Hawaii assignment Sept. 15.

## Union South will celebrate 75th year

Union South Church in Covington Association will observe its 75th anniversary Sept. 18. The theme for the day is to be taken from 75 years ago.

John Gandy is chairman of the committee to observe the anniversary, and he has asked church members to dress in the style of the early part of the century if it is convenient. Speakers at the 11 a.m. service will be several former church members who will reminisce from their experiences in the church.

Lunch will be served at the church. Mike Racey is pastor.

## Hinds General adds chaplain

Hinds General Hospital has announced the addition of Jonathan H. Waddell, to its staff. Waddell will assume the position of director of pastoral services at Hinds General. His previous position was that of assistant director of pastoral care at Baptist Medical Center—Princeton in Birmingham, Ala.

A native of Mississippi, Waddell was born in Centerville. He attended high school in Crystal Springs and college at Clarke and William Carey. At the New Orleans Seminary, he earned the degrees, master of theology, master of religious education and doctor of education in psychology and counseling. He received his clinical pastoral education at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.

## Woodland Hills will present "giant choral ensemble"

The Sanctuary Choir of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson account, paried by members of the Jackson Symphony, will present a symphonic choral suite based on traditional hymns of the church on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

A special feature is the extensive congregational involvement in which the audience will be asked to join in singing with the choir and orchestra on many of the hymn arrangements, forming a giant choral ensemble.

All of the hymns involved—such as "Amazing Grace," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "When I Survey," and many others—are those which cut across denominational and cultural lines, and are familiar to everyone," said James Glass, minister of music. This presentation will be free.

The Thomas Sullivan Reunion will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, in Sullivan's Hollow at the Zion Hill Baptist Church, Mize. James L. Sullivan, retired president, Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC, will speak at the 10 a.m. service. A reunion choir will rehearse at 9:15 a.m. at the church. All reunion members are invited to participate in the choir, said Gwen Keys Hitt, reunion chairman. The pianist will be Kathryn Belle Speed. Lunch will be served on the grounds. At 1 p.m. there will be a congregational sing, election of officers, and the recognition of descendants.

Andrew Lee Haynes, deacon of First Church, Lambert, was recently presented a certificate of appreciation, along with an award for having attended Sunday School for ten years without missing a Sunday. Haynes was recognized in the church's worship services on Sept. 4, by the pastor, Wayne Long.

Daniel and Sharon Bradley, missionaries to Kenya, may be addressed at P. O. Box 2084, Kisumu, Kenya. He is a native of Gulfport. She was born in Gulfport and grew up in Saucier.

Billy and Gerry Colston, missionaries to Korea, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Yeo Eui Do P. O. Box 165, Seoul 150, Korea). He was born in Kosciusko.

James and Gloria Jeanette Hare, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 99, Davao City, Philippines 9501). He is a native of Brooklyn, Miss.

The greatest truths are the simplest; and so are the greatest men.—Hare.



## Friendship, McComb, will celebrate 165th year

Friendship Baptist Church, near McComb will observe its 165th anniversary on Sept. 18. Guests will include Charles L. Taylor, a former pastor, who will preach in the morning service, and Kenny White, a former minister of music and now minister of music at Locust Street Baptist Church, McComb, will lead the singing. Theme for the celebration will be "In Honor of the Past, In Hope For the Future."

A goal of 165 has been set for Sunday School, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. The morning worship service will begin at 10:45, with a covered-dish meal following in the Family Center.

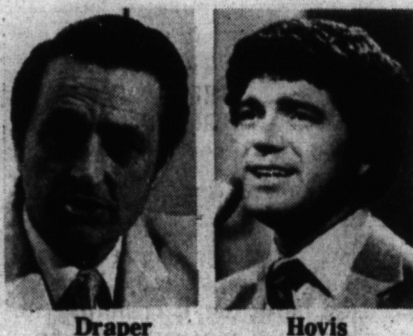
At 1:30 p.m., the first of six revival services will be held. Fred Wood, for 31 years pastor of Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., will preach. Robert Goodman, minister of music,

First Baptist Church, McComb, will be music evangelist, Sept. 18-23.

Friendship Baptist Church was organized in 1817 as a mission of the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, and constituted on Sept. 18, 1817.

The present sanctuary was constructed in 1930, with an education building added in 1950, and a Family Center in 1973.

Friendship has had 36 pastors; the first was Shadrach Coker. Thirty were members in 1820, and today the member is around 350. There have been seven men ordained into the ministry at Friendship in recent years. A mission sponsored by Friendship became the Fellowship Baptist Church, near Summit. The current pastor is S. M. Henriques, Jr.



Draper

Hovis

## Draper, Hovis to visit Harrisburg

James T. Draper, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Guy Hovis, singing star of the Lawrence Welk Show, will be among the featured guests for the 50th anniversary celebration at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Sept. 18-21. Other program personalities will include Bob Hamblin, Howard Aultman, D. D. Satterwhite, and Warren Ferguson.

## Taiwan Baptists launch national media blitz

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan Baptists launched a national media blitz in August to reach all 18 million people in the island country.

The media campaign and a nationwide evangelistic crusade in September climax Bold Mission Taiwan, a three-year joint effort of Taiwan Baptists, Southern Baptist missionaries, and Missouri Baptists.

The Taiwan Baptist Mass Communications Center in Taipei produced spot announcements that will be broadcast 106 times on national television and 252 times on radio through Sept. 18. Each spot features a Christian testimony or an invitation to a Bold Mission Taiwan evangelistic service.

The campaign is using newspaper and magazine ads (including two full-page ads in the Chinese-language edition of Reader's Digest), handbills, posters, banners, public bus ads, auto stickers, tracts, and lapel pins. All proclaim "I know Him" and "You can know Him, too!"

The advertising features testimonies of well-known Taiwan Christians, including an athlete, a provincial governor, a movie star, a popular singer, educators, and authors. Telephone hotlines in five cities will enable people responding to ads or broadcasts to request Christian literature by mail.

About 120 Missouri Baptist pastors, musicians, and lay people will go to Taiwan in September to participate in the crusade as preachers, singers, and witnesses in 110 churches.

## Devotional "You are God's poem"

By Robert H. Perry Sr., pastor, First, Waynesboro  
Ephesians 2:10

The word which Paul uses is "Poems." Literally, "Ye are God's poems, written by his own hand. The work was God's and ye are in Ephesus to be God's poetry. The steps of your life are to be stanzas which all may read. Every line is to be glowing literature: so attractive that your neighbors shall be drawn to Christ."

What a suggestive word to us today — "Poem." Have you ever thought about it? Does it seem such a lofty thing as to be unattainable? In my poor and commonplace existence, just an everyday person, how can I be a poem? My words are not poetic; my soul does not daily rise to heights of poetry; my thoughts many times are on the world; and my duties every day drag me down to the office, factory, school, farm, the kitchen, and the nursery. I can see no poetry in them. Can God really see it, I wonder, or maybe Paul was just speaking in a poetic strain?

No! Paul offers a plain and positive truth. A poet is a "maker"—and a poem is what a poet "makes." It is the outcome of a man's deepest thoughts and finest feelings; and into it he throws his whole mind and soul.

Heaven wants to make us like itself. We are to be God's poems, to speak his praise, translate his mind to men, and so create the great and powerful New Testament Church.

One's desire should be to have their will to be one with God's will, and their heart to thrill with the thought of his love. Then they will feel sure they shall be a poem of his creation.

## 83 Perry Countians serve outside state

Eighty-three members from 10 churches in Perry County were on mission outside Mississippi this summer.

Mike Easterling and Robert Brownlee from Arlington church helped build church furniture for missionaries in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Five men went with two from Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, to Farmington, New Mexico, to help finish a new church started last year. Eleven men went to Corcoran, Calif., to construct a multi-purpose building, 30' x 72'.

The others held six Vacation Bible Schools and two revivals at six locations in New Mexico: Crown Point, White Horse, Dalton Pass, Standing Rock, Bird Springs, and Zuni. These efforts resulted in 20 professions of faith, 620 VBS enrollees, and 275 average attendance.

"The attitude of the people served ranged from shyness and even a bit of suspicion at first, to pleas for the people not to leave by the end of the week," reports B. F. Smith, director of missions, Perry County. The group going to New Mexico included several entire families and 14 children. There gave gifts and prayer support. (More than 28 percent of the associational budget was used outside the state.)

The trip to New Mexico was organized and expedited by the Missions Committee chaired by Joe Strahan of

Beaumont. It involved one private camper, two church vans, one rented van, and other private vehicles. All who went gave their time and most of them paid their own expenses.

The association hosted a dinner for the returning volunteer missionaries. "Their enthusiastic reports made the occasion sound like a chapter out of the book of Acts," said Smith. "Perry County churches will never be the same again." This New Mexico project was third such endeavor for Perry Baptist Association.

## Special day Sept. 17 will mark Clarke's 75th year

Alumni, students, faculty, and friends of Clarke College, Newton, will gather for a day of special celebration and thanksgiving Sept. 17, in honor of the 75th anniversary of the college. The public is invited.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Lott Fine Arts Building. A reception will be held there until 9:30 a.m., when the program begins.

The program, which will involve past and present faculty and students, will be highlighted by a performance by the "Alumni Choir."

Following lunch, "Singspiration"

## White Oak team goes to coast

White Oak Baptist Church, Smith County, Jimmy Fulton, pastor, sent a group of adults, Acteens, and RAs to lead in Vacation Bible School this summer at Trinity Baptist Church, Biloxi.

Earlier in the year, the Acteens attended a youth missions conference at Gulfshore Assembly. While there with them, the pastor's wife contacted Paul Vandercook, concerning the Acteens desire to do some volunteer service. Vandercook is director of ministries, Gulf Coast Baptist Association.

An adult volunteered to teach each age group. Then each of these adults trained assistant teachers in Acteens. The RAs assisted the pastor with Tract II, a homemade robot, in teaching in the VBS.

Those who participated were Mrs. Debbie Smith, Darlene Dukes, Regina Robertson, Leslie Dukes, Nickie Woolley, Tres Ziegler, Mrs. Clea Overby, Anita Dukes, Karon Robertson, Mrs. Mary Fulton, Danya Derrick, Kim Overby, Jimmy Fulton (inventor of Tract II), Gil Smith, Darren Dukes, Cooper Smith, Geri Sellers, Jennifer and Brantly Smith, and Casey Fulton.

Mrs. Merble Dukes went along and stayed in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Aubry Irwin. The Irwins opened their home to the group all week while they were conducting the Bible school.

Joe Abel, Trinity pastor, said it was one of the best conducted Bible schools the church had had. Said Mrs. Fulton: "We were well pleased with the sincere efforts of our church team who went and our church team who stayed home and prayed for us."

The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.—Frederick B. Meyer

## Trinity, Vicksburg to break ground

Trinity Baptist Church, Vicksburg, will have a ground breaking service on Porter's Chapel Road, Sunday, Sept. 18, at 5 p.m. Howard D. Smith is pastor of Trinity Church.

## Staff Changes

Trinity Baptist Church, Rosedale, has called Bill McClelland as pastor. He moved to Rosedale from a pastorate in Clarinda, Iowa. McClelland, a native of Moorhead, was pastor at First Baptist Church, Louise, before he was called to Iowa. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. Hank Rainwater of Memphis was interim pastor at Trinity Church, before McClelland's arrival on the field Sept. 5.

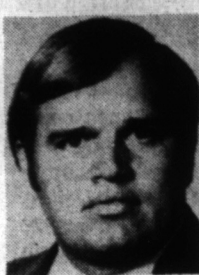
Kathy Kay, a Mississippi College student majoring in church music, has been serving as minister of youth and music at Deer Creek Baptist Church, Rolling Fork, for the summer. She will continue to serve on weekends. She is the daughter of Anthony Kay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Calhoun City, and Mrs. Kay. Lee Hudson is pastor at Deer Creek.

James Burrell has resigned from the pastorate of Southside Church, Benoit.

Jimmy Hill, new minister of education and activities at Ellisville, First Baptist Church, assumed his duties.

Aug. 21. He moved from Morgan City, La., where he had served as minister of education and youth at Bayou Vista Baptist Church since 1979. His educational experiences include the public schools of Baltimore, Md., and Orlando, Fla., William Carey College (bachelor of arts degree) and New Orleans Seminary (master of religious education degree).

James Burrell has resigned from the pastorate of Southside Church, Benoit.



Monk

Hubert Monk, a student at Mississippi College, has accepted a call to be associate pastor and minister of youth at Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, and was installed Sept. 4. Gary A. Knapp is pastor.

William L. Jenkins, Jr., has resigned the pastorate of Coolidge Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., and has accepted the pastorate of Yale Street Baptist Church, Cleveland, Miss.

Greg Moffitt has joined the staff of Kossuth Baptist Church, Alcorn County, as minister of youth. He is a student at Blue Mountain College, majoring in Bible.

Noel Brock has resigned as pastor of Providence Church, Bolivar County, and is moving to the pastorate of Eastwood Church, Indianola.

Allen Berry has been called as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Boyle. He recently returned to the U.S. from Japan, where he served as a semester missionary with the Foreign Mission Board. He is continuing his studies at Delta State fall.

Curtis L. Guess has moved from Chunky Baptist Church, Newton Association, after 12 years as pastor, to become pastor of the Pine Grove Baptist Church, Neshoba Association.

## Bible Book

### Advice on how to live

By Harry L. Lucenay, pastor, Temple Church, Hattiesburg  
Ecclesiastes 11:7 to 12:14

Life is most vigorous and joys are flavored with sweetness when one walks through his youth. The writer speaks as one for whom the fresh morning of life is past and he observes with regret the lengthening shadows of declining sun. From this perspective he will warn man against excesses as challenge him to be loyal to God.

The last season of life (11:8-9, 12:3-5, 7-8)—The man who walks in the footsteps of God can rejoice in the days God gives him. His happiness will depend upon his attitude more than his aptitude. He will become the sum total of what he puts into his mind and what he does.

The wise voice of age speaks—possibly to Solomon's son, Rehoboam, and admonishes him to stop and reflect upon the day when God shall bring every work—seen and unseen, public and private, good and evil—into judgment. It is true that the fleeting season of youth exposes an active imagination when the spirits are volatile and the passions must be curbed by God's moral restraint. Thus, the wise man points heavenward to the all-seeing creator God who must be reckoned with.

The imagery of the last season of life is beautiful. In old age life takes on the characteristics of a dark, cold winter in Palestine when the storm hides the luminaries. The metaphor changes to that of a house with undependable domestic help. "The keepers of the house" describes the trembling hands and arms. The "strong men" speak of feeble legs. The "grinders" are the few teeth, somewhat lonesome in their place. "Those that look through windows" are the eyes, and the "doors" now "shut" are the ears, now deaf, which cut one off from a vocal society. Such are the infirmities of age—the "evil days" which await man if his life is lengthened out. Therefore, the wise old writer cautions the young to develop piety in their youth.

The lifelong search for insight (12:9)—This was no novice who sought to relay his wisdom through instruction. His life had been invested in the research and the instruction of wisdom. His wisdom comes from God, the "one Shepherd." This wisdom is taught by God and rooted in the whole-some fear of God.

The writer was not content to be a depository of godly thought. He reinvested the wisdom God deposited on his heart in the lives of those who were willing to study with him. His contemporaries recognized the seal of divine

authority in his life. They therefore enjoyed the dividends of instruction communicated through skillfully arranged and artistically grouped proverbs.

The lasting suggestions of wisdom (12:13-14)—These final verses present the writer's theme of the book. It is true that "all is vanity" is one of the major ideas of the book. However, the light by which the book is judged shines from the final two verses.

There can be no more comprehensive description of true religion than, "Fear God and keep his commandments" (12:13). The order of the original is: "God, you shall fear." Not fate, not mischance, not calamities, not rumors, not men, not rulers, not notions—but God. All other things are subservient to him. This fear is the reverent awe which grows out of the faith which the frail creature should have toward a holy God. This fear of God is expressed through the faithful keeping of his commandments which embody his revealed will. Any fear of God that neglects this simple evidence of sincerity is not fear of God but a pseudo faith.

Verse 14 presents a God with whom one dare not trifle. There will come a time when every concealed thing will be exposed before the judgment face of God. There is no book in the Old Testament that has so many references to retribution and judgment at a future period as Ecclesiastes. The prospect of a general judgment upon the nations is clearly seen in the Old Testament. Certainly the natural, and particularly the national, connection in which men stand to one another, is not without an influence upon their moral condition. But this influence does not remove individual accountability. The object of the final judgment will not be nations, but individual persons. With these carefully chosen words, the writer allows the first rays of the dawn to cross the horizon of revelation in preparation for the gospel!

New York, NY (ABS)—Shipments of 5,900 Arabic Bibles are now on their way to the Middle East and North Africa from Korea to help meet a growing demand for God's Word throughout the region, the American Bible Society reports. Some of the Scriptures are for delivery to Egypt. Some Bibles are destined for Lebanon. The remainder of the Arabic Bibles are destined for distribution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Uniform

### God of inspired prophets

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson  
Deut. 18:15-22; Amos 7:10-15; 5:21-24; Micah 6:8

In the two preceding lessons of this unit the subjects consist of a noun, "God," a preposition, "of," and another noun, "creation" in the first, "history" in the second. But in this third lesson the subject requires the addition of an adjective, "inspired," to tell the whole story. It should be self-evident that he is not the God of false or self-appointed prophets. But we greatly need the reassurance that he is the God of inspired prophets.

The primary purpose of the prophet was not then and is not now to foretell the future, but to tell forth the special message entrusted to him by the Lord. We can rejoice that God has revealed events and characteristics of the last days and what shall be hereafter. But let the preacher of today beware of giving so much attention to the second coming that little time remains to share with a lost world the good news of his first coming. We need to strive for a well-rounded ministry, declaring to our people the whole counsel of God.

I. The prophet counteracts strange beliefs about the spirit world (Deut. 18:15-22). A large segment of our society maintains a position of gullibility in the presence of soothsayers, fortune tellers, palm readers, and the sort. They seem to have an insatiable appetite for knowledge of the spirit world and are not too particular about the source of their knowledge. In the verses preceding this portion of our study, God through his prophet Moses sounds a strong denunciation of such practices and those who participate in them. In verse 12 he said, "Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord" (NIV).

Then Moses declares that God would raise up prophets from the midst of his people, that he would put words in their mouths, and that the prophets would tell them everything God commanded. This is God's stated plan as to how the God of creation and of history would continue his process of self-revelation. It is of such vital importance to his people that he warns them that they will have to give an account for failing to listen to his inspired prophets. He also states that those who presume to take upon themselves this awesome responsibility or to speak in the name of other gods must be put to death.

2. The prophet condemns 'show' in the sanctuary without service in the streets (Amos 5:21-24). Sometimes the prophet is not the most popular person in his community. Neither is today's preacher. When the uncompromising

word of the Lord is proclaimed, people in rebellion or in a condition of stagnation and disobedience, hear not the word of the Lord but only the words of the prophet. And sometimes, nursing their wounded spirits, they go forth to begin a movement to oust the preacher from the pastorate.

This is how it was with Amos. These are strong words indeed, "I hate, I despise your religious feasts." God, through Amos, condemns their worship, including their offerings and their music. What he longs to see is not ostentatious worship, but the practice of Christianity in every aspect of community life. He is not commanding that worship be discontinued, but expresses his desire to see the fruits of worship in daily living.

For his strong preaching Amos was denounced by Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, who said, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there" (Amos 7:12). If a man is in the ministry to "earn his bread," he probably will react to such declamations by seeking the pleasant pastures where sweet waters flow. But if he is an Amos taken from his former means of a livelihood and told to go prophesy to God's people, he will stand his ground and say to that skeptic and all others like him, "Hear the word of the Lord."

3. The prophet clarifies God's search for simplicity in the lives of his servants (Micah 6:8-8). How can a man know what God expects of him? The answer to this question seems to be the primary point of revelation. Through his mighty acts of creation, in history, and, as here, by the mouth of his prophet, Micah, God has been teaching man by precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little (Isa. 28:10) what is his will for mankind.

But man would rather pay attention to what other men are doing and saying about the worship of God than to listen and learn from God's clear instructions. So when Micah finds the people committing acts which God has forcefully condemned in his Word, he endeavors to clarify for them even more clearly just what it is that God requires of them. He states that in all simplicity it is "to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Simple acts of obedience should characterize our lives in all relationships in the community, as well as in our worship.

## Life and Work

### A traditional role

By Larry W. Fields, Harrisburg, Tupelo  
11 Kings 4:8-10, 17-20, 24-25, 30, 36

In a series of lessons about biblical characters who lived fulfilled lives, we focus this week on a woman who was not named, but simply called, "the Shunammite woman."

Her example reminds us that the Bible teaches that deeds of kindness will return to bless the giver. This proved true in her case, even though she expected nothing in return from her assistance to Elisha.

She also demonstrates the value of the traditional role of the homemaker. Unfortunately, some people today tend to look down on the role of the homemaker in comparison to other career choices. It is true that some women work outside the home by choice while others are forced to work because of economic necessity. This reason is not a condemnation on women who work outside the home. Rather it is to show that if a woman so chooses, she can find fulfillment as a wife, mother, and homemaker.

I. An unexpected kindness by the woman (11 King 4:8-10)

As a prophet, Elisha traveled from Mt. Carmel to other areas to teach, preach, and prophesy. Public eating facilities did not exist; therefore, the traveler was dependent on the hospitality of others. He passed her home and she took the initiative to invite him for a meal and made him welcome during each succeeding trip. She is called "a great woman" (v. 8), which means "prominent" or "wealthy."

Elisha recognized the qualities of this home and the graciousness of this homemaker. She perceived that he was a man dedicated to God and discussed it with her husband (v. 9). This led them to prepare a small, private room for Elisha's use during his numerous trips through Shunem (v. 10). Her "second mile" efforts to make the prophet comfortable are an example of her service to God with what she had and could provide.

II. An unexpected gift from God through the prophet (11 Kings 4:17)

Elisha wanted to repay the woman for her kindness, but she replied that her efforts to assist him were not done for reward. This demonstrates the sincerity of her help for others. Through his servant, Gehazi, the prophet learns that she has been barren and, in her old age, has no children. This was a tragic condition for a woman in that time. Elisha is impressed that in the place of disappointment and bitterness, this woman had channeled her grief into service for the Lord.

When told by the prophet's servant that she would have a son, she thought it impossible.

III. An unexpected tragedy leads to strong faith and bold action (11 Kings 4:18-20, 24-25, 30)

When the lad was old enough, he served as a water boy in the field with his father's workers. It was while he was working in the fields one day that he began to feel faint. He complained of his head hurting, which could have been the result of sunstroke, heat exhaustion, or even a brain tumor. We do not know what happened, but after being brought to his mother, he died in her arms after a few hours.

Her faith told her she needed the prophet, so she instructed that the child's body be placed on the prophet's bed. She immediately traveled to Mt. Carmel to see him (vs. 24-25).

Going past his servant, Gehazi, the woman fell at the feet of Elisha, and in desperation sought his help as she lamented her bitter circumstances. It seemed so unfair. She had not asked for the son, and once she had him, he was the joy of her life. Why did it have to happen? Gehazi tried to pull the pleading and protesting woman away. Elisha stopped him. Elisha sent Gehazi to her home with his staff (v. 29). The woman did not budge until Elisha himself agreed to come.

IV. An unexpected miracle brings a happy ending (11 Kings 4:36)

Elisha entered the room of the dead child alone, closed the door, and began to pray. He then breathed life into the dead child, which was a miracle from God. The child came alive, and he then called for his mother to come. She had rejoiced when she held her baby in her arms; she now rejoiced even more! Through Elisha, God had twice given her this child.

Women often are inclined to believe that the traditional role of normal homemaker is old-fashioned and out-of-date. It is no longer believed that homemaking as a career can provide lasting fulfillment and satisfaction. The Shunammite woman demonstrates the opposite. From beginning to end, her life is an example of victorious living. With spiritual sensitivity to God's will and a desire to meet the needs of others, she found immense fulfillment and unexpected blessings. Because of her confidence in God, she had a positive faith and did not allow negative ideas to enter her mind. All of us need to learn from her example that meaning and fulfillment are still available in traditional roles.